Adventist education in the Southern Asia Division (SUD) (comprised of India, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives) began 120 years ago with one student and one teacher in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India. Today, Adventists operate more than 356 K-12 schools, 10 professional schools offering nursing and paramedical programs, eight senior colleges, and one university in SUD. At the end of 2014, student enrollment at all levels stood at 205,891 with 9,896 faculty members.

The curriculum in Adventist schools in SUD focuses not only on offering the very best in the acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes, and capacities pertinent to each level, but also on the harmonious development of the physical, moral, spiritual, and social dynamics of the students in order that they may become active and responsible participants in society. With that as the core prerogative, Adventist education in Southern Asia uses an integrative approach to education to build characters both for now and for eternity.

The past quinquennium (2010-2015) has been a time of change and growth for the educational system in the Southern Asia Division. A number of schools have been upgraded to secondary level. The fast-growing enrollment (see charts on page 63), supported by effective educational policies, are meeting the goals set by each union as well as by the division. While all of our schools serve as avenues for witnessing what God can do for all our students and faculty, our boarding schools stand out for their effectiveness in leading students to greater spiritual commitment and maturity.

Higher Education

During this past quinquennium, Adventist higher education in India experienced a phenomenal honor and significant achievement. For years, Spicer Memorial College in Pune, India, has been the primary institution for collegiate education, sending out graduates throughout the division and many other parts of the world. Its graduates hold high positions in church leadership at the General Conference, several universities and divisions in Africa and Asia, and have made a substantial impact on international bodies.

But the college has struggled with the challenge of not being fully recognized by the governmental university system. To rectify this and ensure that Spicer took its rightful place among the distinguished universities of the country has for many years been the prayer of Adventists throughout the country.

The college and its board have been actively working on this, and last year, as the college entered its 99th year of operation, the Lord heard the prayers of His people: Spicer finally obtained a charter to operate a self-financed uni-

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versity. From now on, it will be free to implement its own curriculum and offer its own degrees—without any problems of Sabbath observance or interference in the educational philosophy of the institution.

Another SUD institution that has made fresh moves and advances is METAS of Seventh-day Adventist College in Surat, a bustling city north of Mumbai. The school has been offering courses in nursing, paramedic training, business administration, management, and computer science. In addition, during the past quinquennium, the college undertook a major step to share its blessings with the rest of the division. METAS College used its financial, academic, and stewardship responsibilities to begin operating two other colleges—one in Ranchi in the northern part of India; the other in Nuzvid in eastern India. The three institutions have brought much strength to these fields, in which the church has a strong membership.

Lowry Adventist College in Bangalore, which has begun to offer an M.Sc. in nursing, is the only college exempted by India’s University Council/Senate from Sabbath examinations.

Though our education system has experienced great growth and abundant blessings, the schools and colleges require the prayers of the church at large so that they can function and fulfill the blueprint of Adventist education without any loss of their philosophic core.

The SUD Department of Education frequently conducts SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Analyses. A recent one produced the following results:

• **Strengths**: Adventist philosophy of education, Adventist culture and lifestyle on campus; strong academic programs with well-qualified staff; spiritual growth and nurture.

• **Weaknesses**: Poor infrastructure; lack of fully trained and committed Adventist staff; large number of non-Adventist students; excess staff in some institutions; and low college enrollments.

• **Opportunities**: Use of capital assets to develop a world-class education system; more broadly expand our witness regarding the moral and spiritual dimensions of Adventist education; extend
educational opportunities to the large numbers of economically underprivileged Adventists in our constituency.

• Threats: The prospect that schools might be forced to close due to inadequate infrastructure; possible loss of vacant lands due to insufficient planning and adequate usage; the adverse effect on campuses of low Adventist enrollment and teacher support; the possibility of various universities/affiliating bodies interfering with our program and/or philosophy of education; and the possibility of losing Sabbath privileges for classes and examinations.

In spite of all the ups and downs of Adventist education in Southern Asia, we thank God for what has been accomplished through the denominational school system in the division. As we strengthen our commitment to the church and its educational system, our steadfast objective is to achieve God’s ideal for every Adventist child by providing quality infrastructure and dedicated teachers in every Adventist institution.

The Southern Asia Division strongly promotes the idea that Adventist education is essential to the mission of the church. Opportunities and challenges continue to inspire us to do our best with God’s help. During the next quinquennium, SUD plans to upgrade three more colleges into universities and to ensure that there is at least one Adventist school in every district in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. We believe that God mandates the pursuit of these goals and will ensure their success through His providence and grace.

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School of Education and Psychology

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- Psychology *(Bachelor of Arts degree is also available)*
- Forensic Psychology

Preparation is provided for state and Seventh-day Adventist denominational certification in:

- Elementary
- Secondary

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- Master of Arts (M.A.)
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- Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology